Disgraced Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

Amir, a Muslim American, and his Caucasian wife, Emily, host a dinner party and invite their friends Jory, a Black woman, and Isaac, Jory’s Jewish husband. They discuss several volatile topics from religion to terrorism to politics. Their backgrounds give each of them their own personal views towards the topics and provides a more diverse opinion of the topics of the night.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion occurs when Emily and Isaac admit to their infidelity and the relationships of each member of the work falls apart. Especially the relationship between Amir and Emily since Amir proceeded to beat her after this revelation was revealed.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

The unique factor is that the discussion of Islam, Judaism, the Quran, the Talmud, racial profiling, September 11, the Taliban, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Benjamin Netanyahu is held between a group that is relatively diverse with members of the Jewish community, the Black community, and the Islamic community. Thus allowing a diverse spread of ideas.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Amir, his wife and their guests reach a common consensus/ respect for each other’s views?

5. List some of the *themes* of the play.

-Islamophobia

-Islam

-Racial profiling

-Judaism

-Terrorism

-Westernization

6. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

-Amir wants to live a happy, slightly westernized life with his wife Emily as a successful lawyer. However, Emily’s infidelity keeps him from holding onto a happy relationship and his person morals/ identity keep him from completely becoming westernized.

-Isaac is in love with Emily, and he wishes for them to start a relationship. However, she is still married to Amir, and he is still married to Jory.

-Jory wishes to be a successful lawyer and remain in a happy relationship with Isaac. Although she is able to continue on her path as a successful lawyer, Isaac’s infidelity prevents her from maintaining a happy marriage.

7. After having seen the Town and Gown production of the play write a paragraph each on the following:

a. overall quality of the production, realizing that it is not a fully mounted (financially supported) work on the season of Town and Gown.

For the money that they had to work with I believe that the show was well done. In situations, such as that where the producers do not have the funding to put on a stunning visual display and designs and intricate audio presentations to support the work, the success of the production especially relies on the quality of the actors. With that said, I believe that the actors “stepped up” when the challenge was set before them. They performed their roles well, and as a result the work was well represented.

b. comment on the acting and focus on your favorite role and it’s execution.

The acting was executed well. It seemed that the actors understood the personalities and motives of their characters and represented that well throughout the production. Although each of the characters had their own good qualities, the character that caught my attention was Amir. I believe that the actor captured Amir’s confusion of self extremely well. When the discussion of 911 occurred, the actor seemed to want to sympathize with the western part of himself and those in the room, but something deep inside himself just wouldn’t allow himself to completely side against his culture. Situations such as this showed his character’s internal battles and gave the character depth. The actor’s portrayal of this situation was extremely effective and intriguing.

c. evaluate the directing focusing on the casting of the roles, stage movements, set design, costume design, lighting design, and sound design for the show.

Casting of each character to fit their specific race gave the situations in the work context and it was imperative that each character was matched accordingly. The creation of the onstage door was a nice addition to the work that allowed the characters (actors) to have the ability to storm off stage in the most intense moments. In addition, the various sound effects i.e. cell phone ringing added to the realism of the work, and the movement of the main lights visually told the audience where to focus their attention. Overall, the direction was quality in consideration of the funding with which the production was provided.

d. any unique factors about the production that stand out.

Although the producers did not have a ridiculous amount of funding to work with when creating the work. The actors and producers made do with what they were provided and created a quality production that captured the attention of the audience while providing a compelling take home message for the audience to ponder.